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Karen Quidachay

March 16, 2009

Pamela Creedon
Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

RE: Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order - Rubicon Trail

Dear Ms. Creedon,

I want to thank you and your staff for taking the time and resources to address the water quality issues related to the Rubicon Trail. It is critical that El Dorado County maintain the use of this trail in a manner that does not violate water quality standards or other environmental regulations.

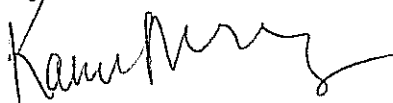
It is unclear to me why El Dorado County refuses to implement the Trail Management Plan and Draft EIR which were designed to ensure the trail would be managed to protect water resources. It is my understanding that the user fees would off-set management expenses. Recently, without hesitation, I paid \$15 to obtain a permit to hike the Mount Whitney Trail. This should be standard practice for recreation areas with high demand and in sensitive areas. Certainly the Rubicon Trail, which is located adjacent to Desolation Wilderness Area, warrants special protection measures and management.

It is my understanding that Supervisor Sweeney claims it would cost \$800,000 a year to manage the Rubicon Trail. Why should taxpayers of El Dorado County pay for the environmental protection measures that result from extreme off-road use from mostly out-of-county recreationists? A fee of \$25 per person to obtain a permit is a reasonable amount to request from Rubicon Trail users. The volunteer work force is not enough to protect this area.

The days of care-free, ignorant and irresponsible use and enjoyment of the environment are over. It is past time for our nation to "grow up" and develop an appropriate attitude concerning the use of precious natural resources. We owe it to future generations to implement a management plan for the Rubicon Trail. This is not an extreme position; I believe this is common sense.

I urge you to issue a moratorium on the use of the Rubicon Trail until El Dorado County BOS and DOT decide to do the right thing and manage this trail in an appropriate manner to protect water quality.

Thank you.



CC: Supervisor Jack Sweeney
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, Ca 95667